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In the notes the following need correction : 5.5: for 85. 5, 9 read 89. 5, 9. 10. 7: for 11. 8 read 11. 5. 12. 10: for 488 read 48. 8(?). 13. 7: for Gawain 2488 read Gawain 488. 14. 7: "cp. note 14. 5"—there is none: 17. 11(?). 40. 7: for 70. 12 read 71-2. 12(?). For 47. 4 read 47. 5.

A review of "Pearl" would be incomplete without mentioning the Pre-Raphaelite allegorical frontispiece by Mr. Holman Hunt, and the exquisite prefatory quatrain by the poet laureate with which Mr. Gollancz has enriched his beautiful and valuable edition.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

POPULAR ETYMOLOGY.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—Is the following instance of 'popular etymology' familiar to the readers of MOD. LANG. NOTES? On the marshes here is gathered the plant samphire, used for greens. Locally, however, only very few know or use the proper name, but it is always referred to as "sand fire." I might perhaps also mention that the farmers rarely say "marsh," but almost always 'mash,' with a very flat *a*.

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CORRECTION.

In the last (May) number of MOD. LANG. NOTES, col. 315, l. 7: for *strong* read *strange*. *ibid.*, l. 18, insert *not* before *be*.

BRIEF MENTION.

In October of last year the new Danish Minister of Culture, Goos, appointed a commission consisting of representatives of the different classes of schools, to consider the subject of orthography. The rules of spelling published in 1889, during the ministry of Scavenius, have not won general approval, special opposition to them having been expressed by editors and authors. The commission is instructed to examine these rules with a view to modifying or entirely changing the most objectionable features, if this seem desirable. At present there are almost as many systems of orthography as there are religious sects in America. The commission is especially warned to proceed as cautiously as possible and to make only such suggestions as give

promise of real improvement. There is every reason to suppose that the most radical of Scavenius' changes will be suppressed and many of the claims of the so-called 'Literary Orthography' recognized.

From W. R. Jenkins (New York. Boston: Schoenhof) we receive new publications in each of his series. The first is a short comedy 'Bouderie,' in one act, by Maurice Lecomte, who evidently is a resident of New York.—The second is no. 17 of *Contes choisis* and is taken up with one story, 'le Chant du cygne,' by Georges Ohnet, rather melancholy in its tone.—The third is an addition to the *Romans choisis*, of which it makes no. 19. It is a product of the *Prix Montyon*, and, notwithstanding that fact, is a bright love-story. The title is 'Mon oncle et mon curé,' and the author Jean de la Brète, of whom we know nothing, but suspect the name represents a pseudonym. The novel is a decided improvement in interest and style over its predecessor in the series.

Ginn & Co. send us three reprints of French texts published under the supervision of Prof. Bôcher of Harvard. They are Moilère's 'Misanthrope,' reproduced from the edition of 1667, Racine's 'Andromaque,' from that of 1697, and Montaigne's 'De l'Institution des enfants,' from the original text of 1580. These literal reproductions are of much service to advanced students of the language and syntax, and we hope to see their number increased, particularly from among the authors of the sixteenth century and of the first four decades of the seventeenth. The series to which these texts belong has been named the *International Modern Language Series*.

Belonging to the same series are two annotated texts, 'la Famille de Germandre,' by George Sand, edited by Augusta C. Kimball, and Erckmann-Chatrian's 'Madame Thérèse' with notice and notes by George W. Rollins. In the first named, the editor has followed the extreme of placing the burden of translation on the student. This plan is preferable to excessive annotation, but thirty notes for one hundred and six pages of text are far too few. They are not sufficient to justify editing.—'Madame Thérèse,' on the other hand, is judiciously and ably edited. There are but two notes in it which might be profitably changed, and they are of an historical bearing. The origin of the French flag is not as indicated on page 21, note 2 (see Chénel: 'Dictionnaire des Institutions'); and Provence (note 2, page 159) is but a small part, and perhaps not the most prolific, of the country of the Troubadours.

D. C. Heath & Co. have increased their French texts by the publication of Racine's 'Esther,' with introduction, notes and ap-